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Applicant : Doug J. Ahmann et al.
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Attorney's Docket No.: 07844-374001/P350

REMARKS

Claims 36-45 are currently pending, of which claims 36 and 41 are independent. Claims 46-57 have been added, of which claims 48 and 53 are independent. No new matter has been added by way of this amendment. Reconsideration of the action mailed November 23, 2004, is requested in light of the forgoing amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner rejected claims claim 36-45 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,178,432 to Cook et al. ("Cook") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,142,616 to Kellas et al. ("Kellas"). Applicant traverses the rejections.

Claim 36 stands rejected as unpatentable over Cook in view of Kellas. Claim 36 is directed towards generating a content division structure that divides base visual content into a plurality of image slices. Claim 36 is further directed towards computationally comparing base visual content and intermediate visual content and identifying image slices where the base visual content and the intermediate visual content differ visually.

The Examiner states that Cook discloses computationally comparing the base visual content and the intermediate visual content and identifying image slices where the base visual content and the intermediate visual content differ visually and generating a set of swap image files containing swap visual content derived from the identified image slices of the intermediate visual content. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Neither Cook nor Kellas, separately or combined, teach or suggest computationally comparing base visual content and intermediate visual content to computationally identify image slices where the base visual content and the intermediate visual content differ visually. Cook discloses having a user select and manipulate prototypes and bind objects to prototypes, and having the user create an interactive web page using these manual selection and manipulation procedures. See col. 6, lines 15-22.

Cook fails to disclose any use of an automated or computational comparing of images. Further, Cook does not disclose generating a set of swap image files containing swap visual content derived from the computationally identified image slices of the intermediate visual content. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 36, as well as claims 37-40 and new claim 46, which depend from claim 36, are in condition for allowance.

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The Examiner also states that Kellas discloses a content division structure that divides the base visual content into a plurality of image slices. Kellas discloses dividing an image into an array of sub-image tiles. Kellas also teaches that the sub-image tiles will typically be squares 256 pixels by 256 pixels in size. *See col. 17, lines 55-61.* Applicant respectfully argues that Kellas merely teaches the application of a fixed grid-shaped pattern of squares to divide an image into sub-images, without providing instructions operable to cause a computer to generate user-created slices.

Kellas does not disclose or suggest dividing an image into multiple sub-images as specified by the user. In addition, Kellas does not disclose or suggest dividing an image into user-created slices and program-generated slices. Furthermore, the Examiner has not provided any motivation for combining Cook and Kellas. For at least these additional reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 36, as well as claims 37-40 and new claim 46, which depend from claim 36, are in condition for allowance.

Claim 41 stands rejected as unpatentable over Cook in view of Kellas. Claim 41 has limitations corresponding to those of claim 36. Therefore, for at least the same reasons set forth above with respect to claim 36, claim 41 is in condition for allowance. Further, as claims 42-45 and new claim 47 depend from claim 41, claims 42-45 and 47 are also in condition for allowance.

New claim 48 is directed towards receiving as input a user-defined image division structure dividing the base visual content, and generating a content division structure dividing the base visual content into a plurality of image slices, including instructions operable to cause the computer to generate image slices corresponding to the user-defined image division structure. Neither Cook nor Kellas, separately or combined, teach or suggest the limitation of including instructions operable to cause the computer to generate image slices corresponding to the user-defined image division structure. Therefore, for at least this reason, as well as the additional reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that new claim 48, as well as new claims 49-52, which depend from claim 48, are in condition for allowance.

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New claim 53 has limitations corresponding to those of new claim 48. Therefore, for at least the same reasons set forth above with respect to claim 48, claim 53 is in condition for allowance. Further, as new claims 54-57 depend from claim 53, claims 54-57 are also in condition for allowance.

Applicant respectfully requests that all pending claims be allowed.

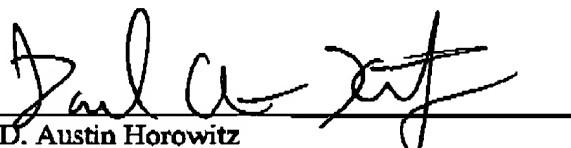
Interview Summary

The applicant thanks Examiner Smith for the courtesies extended during the telephonic interview conducted on February 8, 2005. During the interview, claims 36-45 were discussed with regards to their rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of the Cook and Kellas references. Applicant argued that neither Cook nor Kellas teach or suggest computationally comparing base visual content and intermediate visual content to computationally identify image slices where the base visual content and the intermediate visual content differ visually. Possible amendments were also discussed, but agreement with respect to the claims was not reached.

No fee is believed due, however, please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 23 FEB 2005


D. Austin Horowitz
Reg. No. 46,779

Customer No. 021876
Telephone: (650) 839-5070
Facsimile: (650) 839-5071

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